



**Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Southern District of Texas**

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**GENARO VELA PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

McALLEN, TX – Genaro Vela, 58, of McAllen, Texas, was convicted of receiving child pornography, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

At a hearing held late this afternoon, Vela pleaded guilty to the federal felony offense admitting that in early 2005 he purchased membership to a child pornography website and downloaded images and videos of child pornography onto his home computer.

At Vela's detention hearing, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent testified that a search warrant was executed on Vela's home on June 21, 2006. The search of his home resulted in the discovery of a separate staircase leading to an office used solely by Vela where numerous images of child pornography were found next to his computer. Agents seized the images along with two computers, computer disks, zip disks and personal sexual devices that were also found in the office.

A forensic examination of the computers and the external storage media found in his office was performed. A seized computer laptop belonging to the defendant that was in the process of being repaired was also searched. The forensic examination resulted in the discovery of over 4,000 still images of child pornography and more than 35 video clips of child pornography depicting adults performing various sexual acts with children.

On June 22, 2006, in an interview with ICE agents, Vela admitted that he had download child pornography from the Internet, and knowingly paid a subscription to a child pornography website.

United States District Court Judge Randy Crane presided over the guilty plea and has set sentencing for December 6, 2006. Vela faces a sentence of up to twenty years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and a term of up to three years supervision following his release from prison. Vela, a former Mission school teacher, coach and Boy Scout leader, has been and will remain in federal custody pending sentencing.

The investigation leading to the arrest and indictment of Vela was conducted by agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and officers of the Mission Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Alex Lewis.

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